

The Sun.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1905.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second-Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.
DAILY, Per Month, \$3.00
DAILY, Per Year, \$36.00
SUNDAY, Per Year, \$6.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month, \$1.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$12.00
Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have their names retained, they must in all cases send stamps for this purpose.

The Pay of Federal Officers.

A bill introduced by Senator GALLINGER last March and now in the hands of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, provides that after March 4 next the salary of the President of the United States shall be increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000, of the Vice-President and of Cabinet officers from \$8,000 to \$15,000, of the Speaker of the House from \$9,000 to \$12,000, and of Senators and Representatives from \$5,000 to \$9,000.

We have no objection to offer to the measure, more especially as it bears no likeness to the famous "salary grab" of 1873, when an existing Congress had the bad taste to vote itself more pay and back pay. This bill is not to take effect during the life of the present Congress.

If the salary of the President of the United States is increased to \$100,000, as a more recent bill introduced in the House of Representatives provides, it will not be a penny too much. Relatively to the compensation of heads of other important nations, and even of nations of far inferior rank, it will still be small.

The later bill provides properly that a President, after his retirement from that exalted office, shall receive \$25,000 a year during his life.

The time was when demagogues might appeal successfully to a petty and niggardly spirit in the American people, but that time long since passed away.

More especially as concerns a man who is or who has been their President, the pride of the Americans demands that he shall be assured an income which will enable him to live as becomes their dignity and the dignity of the now greatest office in the world, both while he is occupying the office and as long as he may live after having once occupied it.

Is a Ministerial Crisis at Hand in France?

When on Tuesday M. PAUL DOUMER was chosen President of the Chamber of Deputies by a majority of 25 over M. HENRI BRISSON, the Government candidate, Premier COMBES doubtless recognized that his own overthrow is imminent.

The executive ability displayed by M. DOUMER in the post of Governor General of Indo-China, which dependency he made self-supporting, has, coupled with the sturdy independence evinced by him in the Chamber of Deputies as chairman of an important committee, caused the French middle class to see in him the "strong man" for whom it is always hankering. He now holds in its imagination the place which was occupied by M. CONSTANS fifteen years ago. He has long been talked of as a coming Premier, but until lately it seemed probable that M. COMBES would be able to retain a majority in the Chamber until he should have completed the abolition of the Concordat.

The disgust, however, provoked by the Government's avowed determination to introduce an income tax, and the indignation excited by disclosures of the length to which the spy system has been carried, not only in the military and administrative but also in the judicial departments, have already brought him more than once within a hair's breadth of defeat; and now he has been unmistakably beaten, not, indeed, on a Cabinet question, but in a matter which involved a test of strength, to wit, the selection of the Chamber's presiding officer. There is no shrewd politician in France who will not read in this reverse the handwriting on the wall.

The elevation of M. DOUMER to the post of Premier would be interpreted as proof of a new alignment of political forces in the Chamber of Deputies and as the promise of a considerable change in the attitude of the French Government toward the Catholic religion. It would be evident that ascendancy had moved from the extreme Left, composed of Socialists and advanced Radicals, in the direction of the Left Centre. The preponderant faction would still be intensely Republican, but no longer Socialist or radically anti-clerical. It would show itself as resolved as was its predecessor to do justice to DREYFUS, but it would, at the same time, deserve and gain the approval of the army, the civil functionaries and the judiciary by a stern abatement of the inquisitorial system. It would not repeal the law against religious associations, but it might administer the statute in a more conciliatory spirit. Above all, it would be called upon by its Moderate supporters to put a stop to the campaign for the immediate and total divorce of State and Church in France. We add that almost certainly it would renounce the project of an income tax.

We take for granted that M. DELCASSÉ, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, would not follow Premier COMBES into retirement. His predecessor, M. HANOTAUX, is understood to be absorbed in the composition of a monumental work on Cardinal RICHELIEU, an installment of which has been published; and although there is no lack of other candidates for the place, none of them has proved his capacity for diplomacy by remarkable achievements. So long as M. DELCASSÉ remains at the head of the Foreign Office, the financial, industrial and commercial elements of the French nation will be free from uneasiness, and they are overwhelmingly of the opinion that the crime is not on the increase.

In his attitude toward Germany, M. DELCASSÉ has discreetly avoided any affectation of cordiality, while, at the same time, abstaining care-

fully from provocation. He has brought about the most friendly relations between the French Republic and the Italian monarchy, and has put an end to the age-long bickering with Great Britain about the "French shore" of Newfoundland. He has negotiated treaties of arbitration with Great Britain and the United States. Above all, with surprising dexterity, he has shielded his country from embroilment in the Far Eastern war, while never for a moment losing the good will and confidence of Russia. In a word, he has shown himself a statesman such as the European continent has not possessed since BISMARCK'S death.

The French, though they are emotional, have a keen eye for the main chance. They know a good thing when they see it, and therefore M. DELCASSÉ can count with a close approach to certainty on keeping the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs as long as he wants it. Premiers may come and Premiers go, but he will run on indefinitely.

Cuba's New Loan.

A private letter from a competent and responsible authority in Havana informs us that "there is much enthusiasm here over the plan to push through what is called the 'interior loan.' " The "soldier beneficiary," adds our correspondent, "will get about one-third of the value of his bond and the usurers will get the profits, because they will keep down the price of the bonds until it is time to put it up."

The national debt of Cuba, assumed last year, is \$35,000,000, in 5 per cent. bonds, payable in forty years. The proposal to which our correspondent refers increases this obligation by the issue of 4 per cent. bonds whose amortization shall not begin until some indefinite time in the far distant future. These are to be issued to the soldiers of the Cuban revolution in satisfaction of claims for \$11,500,000, of somewhat uncertain validity, and of further claims, of distinct uncertainty, for an added \$7,000,000. Many of these claims have already been transferred to foreign speculators at usurious discounts, and inevitably the issue of the bonds would be followed by the prompt transfer of practically the entire issue to the same hands at bargain prices.

Under this plan Cuban taxpayers for many years to come will be held of several million dollars annually, for which neither the island nor its people will receive a shadow of equivalent. President PALMA'S past record led us to expect from him resistance to such a scheme to the utmost of his power, but he seems to be surprisingly supine toward it. He declared that he would "cut off his right hand" before he would sign a national lottery bill which was under discussion by the Cuban Congress in 1903, and he vetoed the bill when it came to him on Jan. 6, 1904. He denounced it as a "lowering and corrupting device," and said that the "Government would be culpable in taking the money of the people for the furtherance of such a scheme, no matter what the object of the lottery." We cannot see how the Cuban Government would be any less culpable now in taking the money of the people and turning it over to a crew of loan sharks.

Until this matter takes on a more definite form, as is now threatened, it is difficult to see any ground for interference from Washington; but it is more than possible that the Cuban authorities may yet be warned that both their own Constitution and Article 2 of the Platt Amendment stand in serious danger of violation.

Approval by the Cuban Congress of a bill which would saddle Cuba with a debt of \$25,000,000 in addition to the present debt of \$35,000,000 would undoubtedly be followed by general and vigorous denunciation. Cuba may pay with safety the matter of some \$9,000,000 still owing to her soldiers; but more than that she should not even consider. Above all, she should not allow herself to be led by the nose by foreign speculators.

Flogging for Wife Beating.

One of the recommendations made by President ROOSEVELT in his message to Congress was that wife beaters should be punished by whipping, rather than by fine or imprisonment. Now Representative ROBERT ADAMS, Jr., of Pennsylvania, has introduced in the House a bill to carry out Mr. ROOSEVELT'S suggestion in the District of Columbia.

Mr. ADAMS would not have more than thirty lashes administered to wife beaters, and in private, Mr. JOHN WESLEY GAINES of Tennessee would have the law wider in its application. "Any man who would strike a woman ought to be whipped," Mr. GAINES contends, and he adds: "I would like to do the whipping myself, if necessary."

Wife beating, Mr. ADAMS believes, is indulged in to an unsuspected extent in urban communities, and is less prevalent in country districts. Some Pennsylvania statistics presented by him show that according to reports from the District Attorneys, 527 complaints of wife beating were laid before the Grand Jurors of forty counties, and 287 true bills were found. In fourteen counties no complaints were made, and thirteen did not furnish reports. On the 27 true bills returned, 211 convictions were obtained, and the sentences imposed averaged three months for each offender. More than a third of the convictions were obtained in Philadelphia, and in that city the sentences imposed averaged five months each. Beaver county sent one wife beater to jail for two years. Somerset's single prosecution ended with a sentence of two years and six months, and Erie and Venango counties, each with one conviction, gave the wife beaters a year apiece in prison.

As to the nationality of the offenders, the statistics are incomplete, but Americans, Irish, Germans, Englishmen, negroes, Hungarians, Welshmen and Scotch-Irishmen figure in the list. The District Attorneys declare that native Americans are less given to this pastime than men of other nationalities, and they are overwhelmingly of the opinion that the crime is not on the increase.

In many of the instances the families of the condemned men became public charges during the period of the criminals' imprisonment. The District At-

torneys agree that drunkenness led to many of the assaults.

These statistics, of course, take no account of the large number of cases that never went beyond the stage of preliminary inquiry in justices' courts, in which the defendants were discharged with a reprimand, or held in bonds to keep the peace. It is the experience of the Pennsylvania prosecuting officers that "the wives asked the Court to withdraw the prosecution" in many cases, because they were without means of support other than their husbands' earnings, or because of compassion for their assailants, or unwillingness to disgrace their children.

Mr. ADAMS'S researches have not thrown any great amount of light on the subject, but they are interesting, at least. He is firmly of the opinion that the whipping post would do much for the protection of wives, and he quotes the District Attorney of Baltimore as saying that after the Maryland Legislature in 1853 passed a law providing whipping as a punishment for wife beaters "the crime ceased as if by magic in that State."

The experience of civilization has been that harsh physical punishment, flagging, for example, has not tended to diminish crime. The reports of the Pennsylvania prosecuting officers as to the frequent desire of wives to withdraw their complaints of beating by their husbands are also suggestive. Very often the beating is an incident of an altercation in which the woman may not be without culpability, acknowledged by trying to withdraw her complaint after she has slept over the matter. When, too, a man who has worked hard all day goes home at night to find that there is no supper cooked for him and his wife is drunk on the floor, the circumstances are doubtless exasperating. Often, too, the woman gives as good as she gets.

Wife beating, moreover, is by no means in America a "revolving evil" which requires abatement by special legislation. In England that sort of domestic discipline is frequent. Our London contemporary, *Truth*, prints regularly cases in which it is carried to great extremes.

Germany and Our Trade With Her.

A Berlin letter in *The Sun* of last Sunday reported a marked revival in German commerce and industry. That country was described as fast recovering from the severe depression of 1900 and 1901, so that a period of continued prosperity is predicted by competent observers of German trade conditions. The United States has reason for gratification because of this improvement, for Germany, while a vigorous competitor in export trade, is also a good customer for our wares and products.

Germany stands second in the list of nations with which the United States maintains commercial relations. Our trade with her in the last decade has increased in imports from \$70,000,000 to \$120,000,000, or about 70 per cent., and in exports from \$102,000,000 to \$194,000,000, or about 110 per cent. It has been an unbroken record of trade balances in our favor, and the total balance for the ten years exceeds \$500,000,000.

Our chief items of imports, with their annual values, are: Knit goods, laces and other articles of cotton manufacture, about \$12,000,000; manufactures of silk, about \$5,000,000; chinaware, porcelain, etc., nearly \$5,000,000; fur skins and manufactures of fur, nearly \$5,000,000; hides and skins other than fur, \$3,500,000; gloves of kid or other leather, nearly \$2,000,000; paper and manufactures of paper, more than \$3,000,000; toys, nearly \$5,000,000; wines, about \$1,250,000. Our imports of beet sugar show a wide fluctuation, but for the year 1904 they will reach \$5,000,000, if they do not exceed that value. These items alone account for about one-half of the total import trade. Out of every hundred dollars worth of merchandise which we buy from Germany one dollar represents books, music and works of art.

Our exports for the last calendar year cover a wide range of articles and include foodstuffs, raw materials and finished products. About 40 per cent. of the total is represented by \$75,000,000 worth of raw cotton. Copper stands at about \$13,000,000, lead at about \$14,000,000, refined mineral oil at about \$7,500,000, corn and unmanufactured tobacco about \$5,000,000 each. Values of \$2,500,000 to \$3,500,000 are represented by naval stores, wheat and wheat flour, fertilizers, fruit and nuts, oleo, oil cake, lumber and timber and a combination of such articles as typewriters, sewing machines and builders' hardware. Sales of agricultural implements show the effects of German competition, yet they will reach about \$1,500,000. Articles representing sales of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 include leather, turpentine, cottonseed oil, and paraffine products. The remainder appears in a wide variety of miscellaneous articles.

In November last Consul-General MAXON, in Berlin, reported that a large number of American houses have established in Germany branch offices under their own management or agencies with German firms of high standing. He reported that these concerns send their skilled salesmen through the country with samples and with price lists printed in German and with price lists printed in many of the kind of energy would increase our sales in that land, and a similar activity in other lands would result in marked advantage to American producers.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is in the earlier stages, also. A perusal of the Act to Regulate Commerce does not show that such power was conferred. A careful reading of the debates of the Forty-seventh Congress, however, shows conclusively that Congress did not intend to give, but carefully refrained from giving, the Commission the power to fix rates, yet the erroneous statement that the Commission has been so empowered has been so persistently circulated that it is accepted as a fact by some newspapers, which may, perhaps, be expected to do so, since they are the expense and labor which a full investigation necessary to accurate statements involves. It would seem that the publishers of newspapers should not be excused from examining the facts editorially when the facts are not difficult to ascertain.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is a department of the Government. Should not the members be restrained from circulating false accusations against a coordinate department, for the sole purpose of endeavoring to induce Congress to enact legislation giving them the enormous power which they would like to see conferred upon them? The interests of the nation? Does Commissioner Protty desire the increased powers in order that the Commission may be "worth buying?"

President Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 10.

Label Explained.

Label had just been settled with the confusion of tongues.

"It is very simple," explained the sporting editor. "They are merely speaking of auto, horse and bicycle races. As in those beguiled days people still used ordinary vernacular, the result may be imagined."

Up Garrett.

We live in an age of spiritism.

So often we ask with a shudder, "What is the name of the spirit?"

We know in the decades gone by.

The cream of the past generations.

All rose to the top of the house.

With no one to taste of its richness.

Save only the youngster and mouse.

In grandfather's uniform faded.

That trunk of black hair which faded.

Held love letters hidden away.

The rain made a patter of music.

The while we held carnival high.

Though palaces towered above it.

The garret was gay on the day.

McLINTOCK WILSON.

THE FIRST HYPHENE OF 1905.

To the Editor of *The Sun*.—In Peim.

Westerchester county, the 18th of 1905 on Monday evening last, a red-headed woman across the face with the red-headed female pleaded for mercy.

She was Mrs. Charles P. Smith of Peim.

Why did Mrs. Smith ask the red-headed woman? Because the aforementioned red-headed peddler false reports concerning the fidelity and fondness of Husband Smith for Mrs. Charles P. Smith.

If there were Mrs. Charles P. Smith in the world, there would be fewer unhappy wives and less sniveling around what should be faithful husbands.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.

Selling of Merchandise in the Subway.

To the Editor of *The Sun*.—Sir, I notice that the subway is to have clear stands. They have already begun to install them.

Where is this to end, and what new legislation will be introduced to the subway? It is bad enough to have the advertising substance, but if the sale of cigars and candy is permitted, what is to prevent the selling of all kinds of merchandise? This use of the public transit for private gain should be stopped.

JAMES WALTON.

OUR EARLY IMMIGRATION.

Call for Authorities in Proof of Statements as to the American Colonies.

To the Editor of *The Sun*.—Sir, In your paper of Jan. 5 Mr. James M. Boddy says: "We know that the thirteen original States were practically all settled by immigrants who were of the English race." The gentleman gives no proof.

MILFORD, Conn., Jan. 9. G. W. YATES, Jr.

The Authorities Cited by Mr. Boddy.

To the Editor of *The Sun*.—Sir, As the *Sun* said more than a year ago the immigrants who have been coming into our country since the middle of the last century have been of a higher type than those who came here in the formative period of the American colonies. In support of your views you quoted a part of a speech of Congressman Jackson of Georgia, in a discussion in the House of Representatives, in May, 1890, of the bill on duties and imports. Mr. Jackson said that ever the time came forward again, he hoped it would comprehend the white slave as well as the black. These "white slaves" he said, were imported from all the jails of Europe, "wretches convicted of the most flagrant crimes were brought in and sold."

"Benton's Debates in Congress," Vol. I, p. 713. Benton of Missouri, in 1820, in the United States House of Representatives, said that "outcasts of London prisons and sweeter from London kennels and disappointed sedons of respectable families were sent to the American colonies, lest they should tarnish ancestral honors by a felon's fate at home."

The statement that many of the settlers of the Colony of Virginia "were discharged soldiers, men released from prison and sent to Virginia to get rid of their criminal propensities," is also a fact.

Mr. Alfred M. Heston of Atlantic City, N. J., in an address delivered before the Monmouth County Historical Society on "White Servitude," gives evidence of this.

That the New England colonies were not free from this fashion of increasing their labor market may be inferred from the remarks made by Mr. John of Virginia in 1820, in the United States House of Representatives. "The price paid for their passage affords a profit to our merchants," (Benton's Debates, Vol. I, p. 863). The practice of carrying on the system of indentured servitude in the early history of our country. Men who were called "newlanders" or "sold slaves" were sold down to the necks of the indentured servants and put to work in the fields, in the mines, and in the mills, and driven through the country, disposing of them to the farmers and other settlers. Lord John of Virginia, in 1820, in the United States House of Representatives, said that "the indentured servants were sold down to the necks of the indentured servants and put to work in the fields, in the mines, and in the mills, and driven through the country, disposing of them to the farmers and other settlers. 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